



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

12. — *Les Nuits Anglaises. Contes Nocturnes.* Par MÉRY. Paris : Michel Levy, Frères. 1857. 16mo. pp. 323.

THE stories of this volume are of unequal merit. Some of them are excellent, and sparkle with wit and epigram, while others are improbable in their incidents, as well as extravagant in their satire. "Le Chateau d'Udolphe" professes to tell the midnight adventures of a romantic Englishman whose head has been turned by the weird legends of Anne Radcliffe. "Boudha Var," in which the Upas-tree fills a large space, is the tale of a Hindoo's revenge, garnished with sketches of English philanthropists, *savants*, and politicians, amusing enough, but very fantastic. "Histoire d'une Colline" shows up life in London and the beauties of railway speculations, and sets the Irish character and the Irish religion in favorable contrast with England and its Protestantism. "Bonheur d'un Millionnaire," the story of a Birmingham cutler, who has amassed a fortune, but does not know how to spend it, is rescued from stupidity only by its redundancy of sharp sarcasms. The trick of a Russian prince disguising himself as a waiter on a Mediterranean steamer for the purpose of studying English character is very far-fetched. The "Nuits d'Été à Londres," and "Physionomie de Manchester," are admirable sketches, drawn with great finish and acuteness. "Anglais et Chinois," apart from its anachronisms and impossibilities, such as recovery in an hour from the damage of a broken skull, and the acquisition by an English sailor of the written Chinese language in a single season, is a story which would do credit to the best feuilletonist of Paris. "Un Acte de Désespoir" is certainly as comical in its conception and its positions as any tale of Hoffman. There is real genius in the fancy of two French apprentices declaring war against all Dublin, laying siege to the city with their barrel of powder in Sackville Street, and frightening merchants, professors, sheriff, and mayor into submission.

The temper of M. Méry's merciless wit and the vivacity of his style are exhibited in such paragraphs as the following :—

"Ordinarily, English servants, by order of their master, make a collection of bricks from all ruined monuments. They have a special trunk for these relics. In the tramp from Pompeii and Herculaneum back to Naples they find the load too heavy, and throw the pieces of brick into the sea. When they get to London again, they fill up the empty trunk with broken bricks from some convenient pile, such as may be found in front of the Westminster palace or along the Thames; and it is this sort of false relics which the English parade in their cabinets with tickets and numbers. The galleries of London are crammed with these fragments."